

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of TAKEUCHI, et al.  
Serial No. Not Yet Assigned  
Filing Date Herewith  
Title CERAMIC PLATE FOR SIDE WEIR OF TWIN DRUM TYPE  
CONTINUOUS CASTING APPARATUS

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**In the title:**

--(Amended) CERAMIC PLATE FOR SIDE WEIR OF TWIN DRUM TYPE  
CONTINUOUS CASTING APPARATUS --

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the following claims as follows:

3. (Amended) A ceramic plate material for the side dams of a twin-drum strip caster according to claim 1, characterized by consisting of, in terms of mass%, BN of not less than 5% to not more than 20%, AlN of more than 15% to not more than 40% and  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  of not less than 40% to not more than 80%.
5. (Amended) A ceramic plate material for the side dams of a twin-drum strip caster according to claim 4, characterized by further containing, in terms of mass%, one or more of:  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  of not less than 1% to not more than 15%, MgO of not less than 1% to not more than 15%,  $\text{ZrO}_2$  of not less than 1% to not more than 30% and  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  of not less than 1% to not more than 15%.

**REMARKS**

This Amendment is being submitted in order to eliminate multiple dependent claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the title and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Versions with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: JAN. 16, 2002

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

The title has been amended as follows:

-- CERAMIC PLATE [MATERIAL] FOR SIDE [DAM] WEIR OF TWIN-DRUM [STRIP  
CASTER] TYPE CONTINUOUS CASTING APPARATUS --

The claims have been amended as follows:

3. A ceramic plate material for the side dams of a twin-drum strip caster according to claim 1 [or 2], characterized by consisting of, in terms of mass%, BN of not less than 5% to not more than 20%, AlN of more than 15% to not more than 40% and  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  of not less than 40% to not more than 80%.
5. A ceramic plate material for the side dams of a twin-drum strip caster according to claim [3 or] 4, characterized by further containing, in terms of mass%, one or more of:  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  of not less than 1% to not more than 15%, MgO of not less than 1% to not more than 15%,  $\text{ZrO}_2$  of not less than 1% to not more than 30% and  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  of not less than 1% to not more than 15%.

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